



Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church

P.O. Box 10 • 12911 East Main Street

Larose, LA 70373

(985) 693-3433 • (985) 693-7551 FAX

www.ourladyoftherosarychurch.org

Dear Engaged Couple,

Since you are interested in celebrating your wedding at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, this letter is being given to you to acquaint you with our Marriage Preparation Process. Your decision to marry is a most important one. The Marriage Preparation provides you with the opportunity to reflect upon your decision and upon your relationship as a couple. It also enables you to see the implications as Christian Marriage.

1. **Church Eligibility:** In order to get married at our church parish, the bride or the groom must be a **registered parishioner** of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish or have a **domicile within** our church parish boundaries. All others **MUST** obtain their **pastor's permission** before they can have a wedding at the church.
2. **Wedding fee:** The regular donation to the church is \$150.00 for parishioners (those who belong to Our Lady of the Rosary Parish and are registered in the parish) and \$300.00 for non-parishioners. This is not a fee for the celebrant; it is rather a donation for the parish church. No one will be denied because of financial difficulty.
3. **Wedding Dates and Time:** Weddings can be held at the church on Fridays after 6:00 PM in the evening, and on Saturdays after 10:00 AM up to 1:00 PM. Weddings on weekdays should start no later than 7:00 PM. Weddings may not be celebrated on Sundays. Our Lady of the Rosary Church does not allow weddings during Lent.
4. **Setting a Wedding Day and Preparations:** The Diocesan Marriage Policy requires that prospective bride and groom must meet with a member of the clergy at his/her own church parish at least six (6) months before the desired wedding day. They cannot schedule a wedding day **WITHOUT** consulting first with the pastor or the deacon. The couple is also required to fulfill and complete FOCCUS and the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Day Program.
5. **Priest from another parish:** A priest or deacon from another Catholic parish is welcome to officiate at a marriage in this parish. However, he must accept responsibility for all the necessary preparation and documents. He must also conduct the rehearsal.
6. **Dates and Time change:** Couples who reserve Our Lady of the Rosary Church for their marriage ceremony and then make changes in those plans must notify the parish office immediately so that the time reserved for them may be made available for other couples.
7. **Wedding Party:** So that the liturgical celebration may go smoothly and to avoid prolonging the services unnecessarily, the parties are requested to limit the number of attendants to this reasonable number:
 - Number of Bridesmaids including the Maid/Matron of Honor, Jr. Bridesmaid and Flower Girl is seven (7)
 - Number of Ushers: no more than 4
 - Number of Readers: no more than 2
 - Number of Gift-bearers: no more than 4
8. **Preparation program that includes:** (1) regular meeting with the designated clergy - As part of this initial meeting a Prenuptial Inquiry will be discussed. The purpose of the Prenuptial Inquiry is (a) to assist the priest, deacon or other Catholic minister preparing the engaged couple for marriage; (b) to help the couple for a fruitful and lasting reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony; and (c) to assure that all canonical requirements of the Church are met. (2) taking the FOCCUS Assessment Tool to assist in the determination of the readiness of the couple to marry; (3) meeting with the designated clergy or FOCCUS Couple Facilitators for the FOCCUS Assessment Evaluation; (4) attending the Diocesan Marriage Preparation Day Program; (5) finalizing the liturgy planning with the celebrant.
9. **Documents for the State: A Marriage License:** The couple is responsible for obtaining their Marriage License from Lafourche Parish Clerk of Court's office not more than 30 days and not less than 72 hours before the day of the Wedding. The civil marriage license certificate should be given to the officiating minister during the wedding rehearsal. Civil Law only requires two witnesses to sign the marriage license. They have to be 18 years and older and in the sound mind. In order to obtain a Marriage License, you will need a certified copy of your birth certificate (with state seal and signature of official).
10. **Documents for the Church:** (1) Recent Baptismal Certificates (not original certificate) are required for Catholics. For non-Catholics who have been baptized - Proof of Baptism, normally a copy of the Baptismal Certificate or a letter from the minister of the Church of Baptism is required. (2) Prenuptial Inquiry, (3) Certificate of Diocesan Marriage Preparation Day, (4) If couple is from another parish, written permission must be provided from the Bride's Parish, (5) Marriage License.

11. Rehearsal: (1) Instruct your wedding party to be on time for the rehearsal as agreed upon with celebrant, (2) It is required that you present your marriage license and the church's fee at the parish office as soon as possible, or they are to be brought the night of the rehearsal, (3) Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) should be heard before celebrating this sacrament, (4) Come properly dressed.

12. Wedding Decorations: The couple's florist is responsible for whatever is brought in the church for decorations. The florist can only decorate around existing church decor and cannot use, move or re-arrange church decor, plants or furniture for wedding purposes. Whatever the florist brings in for the wedding must be removed immediately after the wedding. We are not responsible for lost items left behind after the celebration.

- The florist must use non-drip candles set within a glass container. Wax on the floor of the Church could cause an accident.
- Inform your florist that no flowers are to be placed on the altar or in front of the altar.
- No floral arrangements should obstruct the view of the altar or interfere with the ceremony.
- Location preference of flowers are: (1) two bouquets at the Blessed Sacrament Altar and/or (2) 1 bouquet for the Sacred Heart altar and 1 bouquet for Blessed Mother altar. If you choose to leave the flowers for the weekend, please call the parish office at 693-3433 as soon as possible, so we may place the name of your loved one in the bulletin.
- No one is to use wire, tape, glue, plastic holders, etc. on the pews or any furniture in Church.
- The aisle runner is to be picked up immediately after the Marriage Service.

13. Video / Photographer: The couple is responsible for securing the services of a Videographer/Photographer. These people must be familiar with Catholic wedding celebrations and they must meet with the officiating minister before the wedding celebration begins.

14. Music: The priest/deacon must be notified in advance of your selection of music. Religious music must be used from the beginning to the end of the Mass.

The parish musicians are:

- Mark Savoie (691-9394 C.)
- Coy Williams (696-2357 C.)
- Jon Callais (798-7887 H; 691-0200 C.)
- Sarah Pierce (696-6119 C)

We ask you to contact the musician of your choice as soon as possible. Musicians' fees are to be negotiated with the musicians directly.

15. Wedding Ceremony: The couple has an option to choose from (1) a **Wedding Rite within** the context of a Eucharistic Celebration (**Mass**), i.e., or (2) a **Wedding Rite without Mass**. The second form is preferred especially if the other party is a baptized non-Catholic and there will be a good number of non-Catholics present during the celebration. For the celebration of a wedding involving a Catholic and an unbaptized person may not be celebrated within context of Mass, nor may Holy Communion be distributed to those present.

- Only the Bride, Groom, Maid of Honor and Best Man may be accommodated within the sanctuary conveniently.
- All other members of the bridal party are to sit in the first pews facing the altar.
- The detail of the wedding celebration is determined by the officiating minister.
- Anything contrary to the Rite and Ritual of Celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Catholic Church must be avoided.
- We recommend that small children (flower girl, ring bearer), after walking up the aisle, join their parents or other adults in the first or second pews during the ceremony, if they are extremely young.
- Members of the wedding party are to be advised that the consumption of alcohol prior to the wedding celebration is strictly prohibited. If it has been determined that a member of the party has consumed alcohol prior to the wedding celebration, that person will be requested to leave the premises. If the offending party is the Bride or the Groom, the wedding celebration will NOT take place.
- **Proper respect** is expected by all who participate in the ceremony of marriage. Practical jokes and gags are totally out of place in Church. Likewise the chewing of gum is forbidden in Church.
- **Use of rose petals, rice, birdseed, confetti**, etc. inside or outside of the Church is **forbidden**.

If you have any questions, please call the parish office.

Best Wishes and Blessing,

Priests/Deacons of Our Lady of the Rosary Parish